

CLAIMS:

1. A ratchet-like assembly for winding a counterbalancing mechanism of a door, the ratchet-like assembly comprising:
 - 5 at least one plate operatively mounted onto a fixed structure, the at least one plate including an orifice through which extends a shaft of the counterbalancing mechanism of the door and about which said shaft is rotatable along opposite first and second directions of rotation;
blocking means mounted onto the at least one plate and being operatively
10 cooperable with the shaft for blocking the same from rotating along the first direction of rotation; and
an actuator operatively connected to the blocking means for selectively operating the blocking means, the actuator being operable between a locked configuration where the blocking means cooperate with the shaft so as to allow it
15 to rotate along the second direction only, and an unlocked configuration where the blocking means are removed from the shaft so as to allow it to rotate freely along both the first and second directions of rotation.
2. A ratchet-like assembly according to claim 1, wherein the ratchet-
20 like assembly comprises biasing means cooperating with the actuator for urging the same into the locked configuration.
3. A ratchet-like assembly according to claim 2, wherein the blocking means comprises:
 - 25 at least one ridge provided along a peripheral edge of the orifice of the at least one plate; and
at least one roller pivotally mounted about a corresponding pin connected to the actuator, and being positioned within the at least one ridge and adjacent to the shaft, the at least one ridge and the at least one roller being shaped and sized
30 so that when the actuator is operated in the locked configuration, the at least one roller is operatively pressed against the shaft and the at least one ridge for preventing the shaft from rotating in the first direction, and when the actuator is

operated in the unlocked configuration, the at least one roller is operatively urged away from the shaft and the at least one ridge for allowing the shaft to rotate along both the first and second directions of rotation.

5 4. A ratchet-like assembly for winding a counterbalancing mechanism of a door, the ratchet-like assembly comprising:

 at least one plate operatively mounted onto a fixed structure, the at least one plate including an orifice through which extends a shaft of the counterbalancing mechanism of the door and about which said shaft is rotatable
10 along opposite first and second directions of rotation;

 at least one ridge provided about a peripheral edge of the orifice;

 an actuator operatively connected to the at least one plate, the actuator being operable between a locked configuration and an unlocked configuration;
 and

15 at least one pawling element mounted onto the actuator, and being positioned within the at least one ridge, adjacent to the shaft;

 wherein the at least one ridge and the at least one pawling element are shaped and sized so that when the actuator is operated in the locked configuration, the at least one pawling element is operatively pressed against the
20 shaft and the at least one ridge for preventing the shaft from rotating along the first direction of rotation, and when the actuator is operated in the unlocked configuration, the at least one pawling element is operatively urged away from the shaft and the at least one ridge for allowing said shaft to rotate along both the first and second directions of rotation.

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 5. A ratchet-like assembly according to claim 4, wherein the ratchet-like assembly comprises biasing means for biasing the actuator into the locked configuration.

30 6. A ratchet-like assembly according to claim 5, wherein the actuator comprises a ring mounted about the shaft, positioned adjacent to the at least one

plate, the ring being provided with a handle for enabling a user to selectively urge the actuator into the unlocked configuration.

7. A ratchet-like assembly according to claim 6, wherein each pawling
5 element comprises a roller pivotally mounted about a corresponding pin connected to the ring.

8. A ratchet-like assembly according to claim 7, wherein the ring
10 comprises projections for abutting against the at least one plate for positioning the ring at a given distance from the at least one plate.

9. A ratchet-like assembly according to claim 8, wherein the ratchet-
like assembly comprises first and second plates extending substantially parallel to
one another, and wherein the ring is positioned between said plates and
15 comprises projections for abutting against the plates for positioning the ring at a given distance from each of said plates.

10. A ratchet-like assembly according to claim 9, wherein the plates are
made integral to one another.
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11. A ratchet-like assembly according to claim 8, wherein the biasing
means comprises a loaded spring operatively connected between the ring and
the at least one support plate.

12. A ratchet-like assembly according to claim 10, wherein the biasing
25 means comprises a loaded spring operatively connected between the handle of the ring and the first plate.

13. A ratchet-like assembly according to claim 10, wherein the biasing
30 means consist of a gravitational effect acting onto the actuator and components operatively connected thereto.

14. A ratchet-like assembly according to claim 11, wherein each roller is provided with a knurled surface.

15. A door assembly having a counterbalancing mechanism provided with a ratchet-like assembly according to claim 1.

16. A door assembly having a counterbalancing mechanism provided with a ratchet-like assembly according to claim 3.

17. A door assembly having a counterbalancing mechanism provided with a ratchet-like assembly according to claim 4.

18. A door assembly having a counterbalancing mechanism provided with a ratchet-like assembly according to claim 8.

19. A door assembly having a counterbalancing mechanism provided with a ratchet-like assembly according to claim 9.

20. A kit for assembling a ratchet-like assembly for winding a counterbalancing mechanism of a door, the kit comprising:

at least one plate operatively mountable onto a fixed structure, the at least one plate including an orifice for receiving a shaft of the counterbalancing mechanism of the door and about which said shaft is rotatable along opposite first and second directions of rotation;

at least one ridge provided about a peripheral edge of the orifice;

an actuator operatively connectable to the at least one plate, the actuator being operable between a locked configuration and an unlocked configuration; and

at least one pawling element mountable onto the actuator, and being positionable within the at least one ridge, adjacent to the shaft;

wherein the at least one ridge and the at least one pawling element are shaped and sized so that, once the ratchet-like assembly is assembled, when the

actuator is operated in the locked configuration, the at least one pawling element is operatively pressed against the shaft and the at least one ridge for preventing the shaft from rotating along the first direction of rotation, and when the actuator is operated in the unlocked configuration, the at least one pawling element is
5 operatively urged away from the shaft and the at least one ridge for allowing said shaft to rotate along both the first and second directions of rotation.